

Indiana Health Informatics Corporation (IHIC)

November 12, 2009

Meeting Minutes

The following Board Members were present:

- Kent Barth
- Chuck Christian
- Linda Chezem
- Brian Bauer
- Randy Howard, MD
- Jim Edlund, MD
- Stan Crosley

Also in attendance were: Ryan McCartney (ISDH), John Kansky (IHIE/IHIC staff), Chris Mickens (ISDH), Tom Penno (IHIE), Michael Gargano (ISDH), Merilee S. (Ice Miller), Tom Liddell (MHIN), Bernie Ulrich (IHA), Sarah Werneke (IHIE), Jason Vore (IHIC staff/consultant).

Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Comments

Kent Barth called the meeting to order at 9:00am, and attendees introduced themselves.

IHIT Development Update and IHIT Future Role

Mr. Barth asked Michael Gargano (ISDH) to provide an overview of the development activities related to IHIT, Inc. (Indiana Health Information Technology, Inc.).

Mr. Gargano reviewed that IHIT has been established as the State Designated Entity (SDE) through which Federal ARRA funding will flow to help the State of Indiana. IHIT has been established as a not-for-profit entity, and has its' own EIN, etc. Originally it was proposed that the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) be the SDE, but it was decided that it is better to have a separate organization in IHIT.

Stan Crosley then asked that since IHIT will be the main vehicle for funding going forward, should IHIC be dissolved? Spirited debate followed, mainly around whether or not IHIC has met its' State Legislature developed charter. The prevailing thoughts (put forward by multiple individuals) is that IHIC has, to date, been more of a planning organization, and that IHIT seems that it will be the "feet on the street" to receive funding and make things happen in Indiana.

IHIC has no dedicated staff, while IHIT will (including the Indiana State Health IT Coordinator/Czar). Debate also ensued about whether or not IHIC will drive what IHIT does, and/or whether or not IHIC's board will become part of IHIT's board? Merilee S. (IceMiller) also provided an overview of the proposed governance and structure of IHIT, as well as mentioned that state conflicts of interest will need to be managed in the future.

At the end of the discussion, Mr. Barth proposed that at the January 14, 2010 IHIC Board of Directors meeting that the group revisit the issue of IHIC possibly being dissolved through three discussion points:

1. Should IHIC be dissolved?
2. If IHIC should be dissolved, what would the timing be?
3. What (if any) should IHIC's role be going forward with IHIT?

The group agreed to this plan, and further agreed that since more information about the ARRA funding will be clearer by January, 2010, that things may change in the next few months relative to IHIC's role going forward.

Mr. Gargano also mentioned that he would like recommendations for the IHIC Board of Directors, and would like to keep continuity between the IHIC and IHIT Boards, if possible. Merilee S. mentioned that a Governor's office liaison will need to provide the "requirements" for what the Governor would be looking for in IHIT Board nominations (there will be 8 spots). Mr. Gargano indicated that he would send the submission requirements information to the IHIC Board of Directors members.

Tom Penno (IHIE) asked how the State of Indiana IT Coordinator role will get filled. Mr. Gargano indicated that the role will be a State employee, and that the job description has been started, but is not finalized. The group agreed that the Coordinator interviewees will want to know the IHIT Board composition as they go through the interview process. Merilee S. also mentioned that the Federal ONC will provide guidance as to the State IT Coordinator position(s).

Value Based Reimbursement (VBR) Workgroup Vision Update

Mr. Barth indicated that since Dr. Marc Overhage was not in attendance, Mr. Penno would kickoff the discussion regarding the VBR workgroup. Mr. Penno said that Dr. Overhage's interest in the topic stemmed from the fact that the vision has changed (i.e. it may not be specifically Quality Health First (QHF) that is considered by the group as the named tool to support VBR).

The group then discussed why (and how) QHF was designated as the named tool (instead of others). Ryan McCartney (ISDH) indicated that the VBR group struggled with determining how QHF best fit in with needs and requirements, especially related to HEDIS measures. Mr. McCartney further indicated that QHF is very good for provider measures, while ISDH/Medicaid is more interested in payer measures (i.e. those named in HEDIS). Mr. McCartney then posed that the VBR group should potentially be focused on defining tool requirements to meet all needs.

Tom Liddel (MHIN) then asked if there is a tool out there that does it all? The group agreed that it is probably too early to crown one product as a "winner" – we shouldn't be vendor specific. John Kansky (IHIE) then mentioned that gaining Medicaid as a customer is extremely important to the sustainability of QHF, and that he would send to the IHIC Board the explanations of specifically what QHF does. Dr. Randy Howard (Anthem) then indicated that HEDIS may not be a very good measure of provider quality measures. Mr. McCartney agreed that HEDIS is not the ultimate solution, but that it needs to be part of it.

The group then agreed that Mr. McCartney will continue to work with David Kelleher (VBR Workgroup leader) to further define what is needed in Indiana (both tactically and strategically), even given the potential dissolution of IHIC.

ARRA Funding Pursuit Activity Updates

Mr. Barth provided a quick update that the SHIE-CAP application has been submitted, and that evaluation and funding potentials are being considered at the Federal level. Similarly, the Regional Extension Center application has been submitted and is being considered. Funding notification and further updates is anticipated being communicated in mid-December. Mr. Barth indicated he will send to the IHIC Board an update document that communicates where things are with ARRA pursuit activities.

Chuck Christian also mentioned that he was at a meeting with Dr. David Blumenthal, who is actively engaged with all of the funding applications as well as what's going on here in Indiana.

Mr. Barth adjourned the meeting at 11:05am.

Next Meeting: January 14, 2010, 9:00-11:00am (Purdue Intech Park)